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TSD/BAB MEMO #323-72

2 August 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, TSD/BAB

SUBJECT : ESP

1. Attached is a copy of a letter providing some background on the ESP caper, which I mentioned to you. It was given to me by [] the engineer in Applied Physics Branch who is in touch with Dr. Puthoff.

2. [] briefed [] who was, according to [] very excited about the whole thing. He encouraged [] to pursue it, and [] plans to come up with [] of D&E money to fund some additional experiments by Dr. Puthoff.

3. [] has also been in touch with Life Sciences Division of DDS&T, and reports that they have a very active interest in the ESP field, and have been collecting data for some time. They had heard of Ingo Swann and are interested in following his activities. According to [] they also said that they have a consultant who reports to them phenomena in the field, and that a number of Government agencies are now getting involved, []

4. [] and somebody named [] from Life Sciences are planning a trip to the West Coast on 11 August, when they will meet Ingo Swann and have a chance to watch him flex his sphincter. He invited someone from BAB to join the group. I took the liberty of saying that we would be a little thin on personnel during that time, but would be interested in hearing what happened when he returns. Finally, he mentioned that Life Sciences is planning on forming a "coordinating committee" to work on ESP and the data that is coming in, and they are saving us a slot on the committee.

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ESP file



STANFORD RESEARCH INSTITUTE
MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94025

June 27, 1972

At the suggestion of Russell Targ I am writing you about an observation in the laboratory involving one Ingo Swann, a New York artist. To introduce myself, I am a laser physicist at SRI and co-author of the book "Fundamentals of Quantum Electronics," by Pantell and Puthoff, a Wiley publication.

Through some private correspondence I received some information from Dr. Gertrude Schneider at City College, New York, that they had done some experiments in the Department of Psychology with Ingo Swann, a young man who had done some rather amazing things in their laboratory, including the raising and lowering of temperatures at thermostats placed some distance from his body. Since he was coming out to the West Coast, it was suggested that perhaps, as a physicist with sensitive equipment available, I might like to work with him in an experiment or two. I agreed and invited him out.

In order to eliminate the possibility of trickery, I decided on an experiment where if trickery were successful, that would be nearly as important as any direct effect he could produce. At the suggestion of Dr. Little (Stanford Physics Dept.) I made arrangements to use the superconductor shielded magnetometer being used in the quark experiments of Dr. Arthur Hebbard, Stanford Physics Dept. This magnetometer is located in a well in the Varian Physics building, and is shielded by an aluminum container, copper shielding, and, most important, a superconducting canister. Dr. Hebbard assured me that in tests with large electromagnets no signals have been induced in the shielded magnetometer from the outside. The magnetometer is of the SQUID variety.

Prior to the experiment a decaying magnetic field had been set up inside the magnetometer, and its steady decay with time provided a background calibration signal which registered as a sine wave on the

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decay rate of the calibration field. The system had been running for something on the order of an hour with no noise. Ingo was shown the setup and told that if he were to affect the magnetic field in the magnetometer it would show up as a change in the output recording. He then placed his attention on the interior of the magnetometer (his description) at which point the frequency of the sine wave doubled for a couple of cycles (see output), or roughly 10 seconds. As you can imagine, we were quite amazed, and Art then said, "Well, maybe it's noise--it would really be something if you could stop the sine wave altogether." Ingo proceeded to do just that, as can be seen in the graph, for a period of roughly 10 seconds. He then "let go," at which point the output returned to normal. We asked him to describe what he had done, and he explained that he could see the apparatus inside and that looking at different parts created the effect. As he described what he was doing, the recording traced out a cycle as had occurred originally (double frequency). A rather peculiar dip in the recording took place then, and upon questioning him as to what was happening, he said he was looking at a new part, the niobium ball sitting in a cup which was inert for now in the magnetometer experiment (it is used in the quark experiment). We asked him to refrain from thinking about the apparatus, and the normal pattern then traced out for several minutes while we engaged him in conversation on other subjects. At one point he started to discuss the magnetometer again, at which point the tracing went into a high frequency pattern. At our request he stopped, and we terminated the observation as he was tired from his effort. We then left the lab, and Art Hebbard then continued to run the apparatus for over an hour with no trace of noise or nonsinusoidal activity. At various times during this and the following day where similar data were taken, the experiment was observed by numerous graduate students, and also by Dr. Little of the Physics Department, and by Dr. Martin Lee from SLAC (Stanford Linear Accelerator), the designer of the electron storage ring.

An interesting side light of the experiment was that Ingo was able to describe rather well what the interior of the device looked like, apparently with some form of direct observation. I am quite certain that he would not have had a chance to look at a diagram beforehand, as he did not know that we were going to use this particular piece of apparatus until we arrived in the laboratory.

At this point I wish to state that I consider this an observation, not a controlled experiment. There are variables I would want to check if we had time and money, such as whether it was the recording

could be tested by a direct effect of the apparatus from the recording equipment to see if the recording would continue to change on command.

There is not much more that can be said about the observation. If further work were to validate the observation, the implications are staggering, to say the least. However, before we speculate I think it is necessary to remain cautious and try to arrange for Ingo to return from the East Coast and to perform some carefully-controlled experiments to see whether the phenomena continue to hold under rigorous and well-defined conditions.

As a postscript, we did try to repeat the temperature experiment using a hp quartz thermometer and did get the variations requested. However, the environment was not well controlled, so I consider the experiment suggestive but inconclusive.

If you wish further information on this or have any suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me further about this matter.

With best regards,

Dr. H. E. Puthoff
Senior Research Engineer
Electronics and Bioengineering Laboratory
Bldg. 30
326-6200, Ext. 3202

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